

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates a customer for configuring and ordering for purchase a material application system of the type using different material application components including an application device such as a gun and a material delivery device such as a pump, the system comprising:

a user input device remotely located from a manufacturer's manufacturing site, the manufacturer's site being a site from which material application components including guns and pumps of a for the material application system may be ordered, purchased or manufactured;

a configuration program provided by the manufacturer of the material application system and accessible by said user input device over a communication network;

wherein when a user accesses said configuration program with said user input device said configuration program presents a list of said material application components that are offered for purchase by the manufacturer and that can be selected by said user to configure a material application system; said component list comprising at least a choice of first and second pumps and first and second guns; said user making a pump selection and a gun selection with said user input device to configure a material application system with said selections; said user further inputting to said configuration program at least one characteristic of a type of material to be applied by a selected system;

said configuration program verifying component compatibility of said selections for applying a material having said characteristic.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said input device comprises a personal computer and said network comprises an Internet connection.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said configuration program accesses a pricing and inventory database.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said Internet connection comprises a secure Web site.

5. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein said material application system comprises a liquid spray system including a spray gun, a nozzle and a pump.

6-11. Canceled.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said configuration program operates from a server connected to the communication network.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said user input device accesses a database of test data and configuration data to facilitate troubleshooting.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said configuration program provides a drag and drop interface to permit a user to configure a system.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said configuration program comprises a wizard option to generate a configured system based on response inputs from the user to a number of questions.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 comprising case studies based on operational systems wherein said case studies may include the product being coated, the coating material being used, the manufacturer's equipment used in the system, the principal suppliers involved such as the coating material supplier, and the oven and conveyor supplier.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein said case studies are accessible from a public web page.

18-20. Canceled.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said configuration program presents a configuration illustration to a user of a visual representation of a selectable system and a component listing from which said user may select available designs of one or more of said components.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein said illustration includes a link to a bill of materials database.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a material application system of the type using different material application components including an application device such as a gun and a material delivery device such as a pump, the system comprising:

a user input device remotely located from a manufacturer's manufacturing site, the manufacturer's site being a site from which material application components including guns and pumps of a for the material application system may be ordered, purchased or manufactured;

a configuration program accessible by said user input device over a communication network;

wherein when a user accesses said configuration program with said user input device said configuration program presents a list of said material application components that can be selected by said user to configure a material application system; said component list comprising at least a choice of first and second pumps and first and second guns; said user making a pump selection and a gun selection with said user input device to configure a material application system with said selections; said user further inputting to said configuration program at least one characteristic of a type of material to be applied by a selected system;

said configuration program verifying component compatibility of said selections for applying a material having said characteristic;

said system comprising case studies based on operational systems provided by the manufacturer to different customers wherein said case studies include at least one of: the product being coated, the coating material being used, the manufacturer's equipment used in the system, the principal suppliers involved such as the coating material supplier, and the oven and conveyor supplier.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein said case studies are accessible from a public web page.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein said case studies are available to trade association members over the Internet.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said component list comprises a choice of different control systems.

27. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said configuration program can make specific material application component selections based on information input by the user.